1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Manipur	480	7,301	0	4,441
23.	Meghalaya	180	12,344	0	131
24.	Mizoram	0	7,458	0	27
25.	Nagaland	650	5,997	0	2,046
26.	Orissa (5)	5,177	3,07,420	37,215	85,749
27.	Pondicherry	275	0	0	718
28.	Punjab	0	0	349	918
29.	Rajasthan (3)	38,325	3,48,362	2,20,143	5,11,495
30.	Sikkim	2	463	0	180
31.	Tamil Nadu	2,456	0	18,638	31,781
32.	Tripura	615	4,700	1,494	1,626
33.	Uttar Pradesh (1)	10,44,880	16,944	7,80,511	9,26,777
34.	Uttarakhand	35,358	3,262	7,286	10,319
35.	West Bengal (4)	2,51,667	51,500	2,58,828	1,44,718
	ALL INDIA:	18,75,403	10,69,416	23,108,772	28,97,027

Comprehensive package to help drought-hit farmers

*125. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating a comprehensive package to help farmers affected by the severe drought conditions prevailing in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan is being drawn up by Government to tackle the loss of livelihood to the marginalized people in drought affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Central Government has taken several steps in assisting the States in tackling the situation arising out of drought in several parts of the country which, inter alia, include release of Central Government share of the Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 1990.3275 crore and approval of Rs. 4073.785 crores out of National Calamity Contingency Fund which is meant for providing input subsidy to the farmers, provision for drinking water and fodder, etc.; assistance to save the standing kharif crops through provision of additional power from the Central pool and providing subsidy on

diesel; assistance from Central Sector Schemes for better input distribution for kharif as well as rabi cultivation; providing technical know how through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA); allocation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for livelihood support; allocation of additional foodgrains and periodic monitoring and review at all levels of the Central and State Government on mitigation measures. The Government has also constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), which has been mandated to take decisions on policy issues and schemes required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

More teeth to Directorate of Sugar

*126. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has given more teeth to Directorate of Sugar;

(b) whether Government has also lifted the cap on refined sugar imports;

(c) whether non-payment of sugar arrears to farmers in the last two seasons has made them shift to other crops whose minimum support price was raised;

(d) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government proposes to take to improve sugar output and also help in growing sugarcane to meet sugar shortage; and

(e) to what extent these measures will help in improving sugar production?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The delay in payment of cane price to sugarcane farmers in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons (when there was excess production of sugar and prices of non-levy sugar declined in the market constraining capacities of sugar mills to pay cane price including cane price arrears) can possibly be one of the reasons for the decline in acreage of sugarcane and farmers shifting to other crops. To improve sugar output, the Central Government has permitted duty-free import of raw sugar upto December, 2010. Further, duty-free import of white/refined sugar upto 10 lac tons has also been permitted upto March, 2010. The details of measures taken to import raw and white/refined sugar are enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below). The Central Government has taken steps to help sugarcane farmers in growing sugarcane. The details of these measures are enclosed as Statement-II (*See* below). It is difficult to quantify as to what extent these measures will help in improving sugar and sugarcane production. However they would certainly help in increasing the sugar and sugarcane production.